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FCC Mailroom

Borough of Danville

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December 13, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RE: Notice of Written Ex Parte
WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58, 14-259

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This letter is to support the petition by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to keep nearly \$140 million in Connect America Funds in Pennsylvania to increase access to high speed internet service in underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Adequate infrastructure is critical to the health and growth of communities. In addition to good roads, water, and electricity, reliable telecommunications are essential for resident safety, education, and business operations. Unfortunately, high speed internet is either limited or nonexistent in significant portions of Montour County (PA) and the surrounding region.

We understand that from a regulatory standpoint, only public utilities are required to provide a basic level of service. However, today's telecommunications marketplace offers other potential partners that are willing to extend service where economically viable. Funding policies should be updated to provide incentives and assistance to these companies that are currently only available to the regulated utilities.

The Connect America Funds allocated to Pennsylvania are very much needed in Pennsylvania. The PUC is interested in exploring alternatives to strengthen underserved rural areas. We ask the FCC to keep the allocated funds in Pennsylvania to provide opportunities for growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Richardson
Borough Council President

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